

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

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DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, US, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT THREE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, WASH-  
INGTON POST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, HEADED "KISSINGER'S  
CONVERSATION."

2. IN RECENT MONTHS, THE PRESS HAS JUSTIFIABLY POINTED AN  
ACCUSATORY FINGER AT CERTAIN FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR INFRING-  
ING UPON CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHTS THROUGH VARIOUS  
FORMS OF EAVESDROPPING, SUCH AS WIRETAPS, PLANTED MICRO-  
PHONES, MAIL OPENINGS, ETC. I FIND IT DIFFICULT ON MORAL  
GROUNDS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE KINDS OF EAVESDROPPING  
AND THE SURREPTITIOUS LISTENING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S  
DINNER CONVERSATION IN OTTAWA WHICH LED TO THE MUCH-PUBLI-  
CIZED NEWS STORY.

3. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO DOUBT IN ANY OF THE LISTENERS'  
MINDS THAT THEY WERE OVERHEARING REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY  
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WHICH HE BELIEVED, AND WAS ENTITLED TO BELIEVE, WERE BEING

MADE IN PRIVATE. LEAVING ASIDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN AMBITIOUS REPORTER MAY HAVE ARRANGED TO HAVE THE MICROPHONE LEFT OPEN, THERE MAY BE A LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THIS

TYPE OF EAVESDROPPING AND AN INTENTIONALLY PLANTED MICROPHONE--BUT MORALLY?

4. WHY DID NOT SOMEONE GET WORD TO THE SECRETARY OR TAKE OTHER STEPS TO CORRECT THE OVERSIGHT? HOW MUCH MORE REFRESHING, AND NEWSWORTHY, WOULD THE STORY HAVE BEEN HAD THE HEADLINE READ: "REPORTER'S INITIATIVE PROTECTS SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRIVACY." INSTEAD, WE HAD JUST ANOTHER SORDID EXAMPLE OF THE VIOLATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS. THE PRESS NOT ONLY MISSED A MUCH BETTER NEWS STORY, BUT ALSO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INTEGRITY IN A HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL AREA. (FROM JOHN B. OLIVER, MCLEAN.)

5. I FIND IT ABSOLUTELY AMAZING THAT A NEWSPAPER AS PROFESSIONAL AS THE POST PRINTED BRUCE GARVEY'S "GOSSIP COLUMN" ABOUT KISSINGER'S PRIVATE OBSERVATIONS ON RICHARD NIXON ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE OCTOBER 17 PAPER.

6. EVEN MORE INTERESTING IS THE FACT THAT THE HEADLINE READS "KISSINGER CALLS NIXON 'UNPLEASANT,' WHEN FURTHER DOWN WE READ THAT HE ALSO CALLED HIM "ONE OF OUR BETTER PRESIDENTS."

7. I AM NO NIXON FAN, BUT WHAT'S FAIR IS FAIR. (FROM BRENDA HATTON, ARLINGTON.)

8. WHILE MANY LIBERALLY-MINDED PEOPLE DEPLORE THE ILLEGAL SPY TACTICS OF THE FBI OR CIA, NEVERTHELESS, THEIR EARS EAGERLY EXTEND A FOOT LONGER AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO EAVESDROP ON THE NIXON TAPES, OR MORE RECENTLY, THE SECRETARY

OF STATE'S CASUAL DINNER CONVERSATION. THE NOBLE AS WELL AS THE ETHICAL REMEDY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO APPRISE DR. KISSINGER THAT HIS CONVERSATION WAS BEING MONITORED AND TO TURN THE MICROPHONE OFF. FAILURE TO DO SO ON THE PART UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE RIGHTS OF PRIVACY REPRESENTS AN INDEFENSIBLE DOUBLE STANDARD. PAUL L. SILVERMAN, ROCKVILLE. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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